Central schemes in Uttaranchal

3738. SHRIHARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Centrally sponsored schemes of development of medicinal and aromatic plants, development of roots and tuber crops, development of mushrooms, bee keeping, schemes for foundation and certified seeds production of vegetable crops in the State of Uttaranchal;

(b) the criteria for allotment of funds to the State; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and utilized for the purpose so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MTNISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan" in all the States including Uttaranchal under which the State Government can take up developmental programmes as per their felt needs and requirement. Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for the development of horticulture through activities like supply of good quality seeds and planting material including production of foundation and certified seeds for vegetables, root and tuber crops, coverage of area with improved varieties, conservation of endangered species of medicinal plants through herbal gardens, establishment of spawn production and composting units for mushroom production besides conducting training programmes for farmers. The Government of Uttaranchal have earmarked an amount of Rs. 250.00 lakhs during 2003-04 for taking up these activities.

(b) The funds are allocated to the State Government on the basis of their past performance and taking into account the unspent balance available with the State out of the funds released during the previous years.

(c) Under the Macro-Management Scheme, an amount of Rs. 225.97 lakhs was sanctioned for horticulture sector and the entire amount has been utilized by the Government of Uttaranchal during the year 2002-03.

Waiver of interest on crop loans

3739. SHRI MOOLCHANDMEENA:
DR. T. SUBB ARAMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state : (a) whether the Prime Minister is the only authority to take final decision on waiver of interest on crop loans for the farmers in the drought prone States;